

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 02801 300111Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 INR-10 MCT-01 PM-05
SS-15 SP-02 EUR-12 /073 W
-----010197 300113Z /70
O 310054Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5640
CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 02801

FOR: IPS IOR IBS, CINCPAC FOR USICA ADVISOR

EO 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: ZAIRE INVASION MEDIA REACTION

1. THE WELLINGTON "DOMINION" COMMENTED IN ITS EDITORIAL ON MAY 29 UNDER THE HEADING "DILEMMA IN AFRICA":
2. "WESTERN INTERVENTION INTO ZAIRE CAN BE WHOLLY JUSTIFIED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. WITHOUT THE RESCUE OPERATIONS, MOUNTED PRINCIPALLY BY FRANCE AND BELGIUM, MANY MORE EUROPEANS, AND INDEED AFRICANS TOO, WOULD HAVE DIED.
3. "HAVING TEMPORARILY ROUTED THE REBELS AND AIRLIFTED SURVIVORS AMONG THE 4000-STRONG EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO SAFETY, WHAT ROLE MUST THE WEST NOW PLAY? THE BELGIANS, THEIR GOOD DEED COMPLETED, ARE THANKFUL TO GET OUT. THE FRENCH SEEM MORE RELUCTANT. THIS IS BECAUSE THEIR OPERATION CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD'S "NEW AFRICAN POLICY", A STRATEGY MEANT TO FILL THE POWER VACUUM CREATED BY CONFUSED WASHINGTON RESPONSES TO GROWING RUSSIAN AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT ON THE CONTINENT, TO GUARANTEE THE SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS TO EUROPE, AND TO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 WELLIN 02801 300111Z

PROTECT AND EXPAND FRENCH INVESTMENT. PARIS REGARDS SECURING PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN POWER AS ESSENTIAL TO FRENCH AMBITIONS.

4. "THE THREAT TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU COMES FROM FACTIONAL ANTAGONISMS DATING FROM THE BLOODY DAYS OF CONGOLESE INDEPENDENCE.....THE DIFFICULTY IN RESPONDING TO THE SITU-

ATION IS THAT THE MOBUTU REGIME IS HARD TO DEFEND MORALLY.
IT IS BOTH CORRUPT AND INEFFICIENT. THE AMERICANS HAVE
GROWN TIRED OF THE WASTE OF THEIR MILITARY AID. THE ARMY
REMAINS UNDISCIPLINED, AS EVENTS IN KOLWEZI DEMONSTRATED.

5. "PARIS WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE ZAIRE'S SECURITY TO A
PAN-AFRICAN FORCE - STILL NO MORE THAN AN IDEA. FRANCE
MAY STILL HAVE TO PLAY POLICEMAN. THE RISK HERE IS THAT
IN SAVING MOBUTU WITHOUT CHANGING HIS WAYS, FRANCE MAY
FIND ITSELF ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A POPULAR MOVEMENT
FOR CUBA AND RUSSIA TO EXPLOIT." ANDERSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE), NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN02801
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0397
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978051/aaaaaafn.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 874ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2502508
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZAIRE INVASION MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: MOPS, SWEL, CG, XG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/874ebe92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014